

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05  
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02  
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04  
USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10  
PA-02 PRS-01 /140 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 1798

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 8209

UNCLAS ROME 6222

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, ENRG, MNUC, IT

SUBJ: REACTION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

/BEGIN SUMMARY/. ITALIAN PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT HAS BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE. WHILE MANY REPORTERS AND NEWS COMMENTATORS HAVE RECOGNIZED MERIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT OF PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND OF RESTRICTING THE AVAILABILITY OF PLUTONIUM IN THE WORLD, VIRTUALLY ALL EXPRESS OR CITE CONCERN THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY PROBABLY WOULD LIMIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MANY COUNTRIES AND IN ITALY IN PARTICULAR. MUCH OF THE NEGATIVE REACTION IS BASED ON THE SUSPICION THAT THE NEW U.S. POLICY IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT EUROPEANS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A CLAIMED TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD IN DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS WHILE KEEPING MUCH OF THE WORLD DEPENDENT ON U.S. AND CANADIAN URANIUM FUEL. EMBASSY HAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POLICY OTHER THAN EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE STATEMENT FROM OFFICIALS OF CNEN (NATIONAL NUCLEAR POWER COMMISSION) AND ENEL (STATE ELECTRICAL POWER UTILITY). /END SUMMARY/.

1. NEWSPAPERS THAT HAVE A GENERALLY CENTRIST TO

RIGHTIST POLITICAL OR A BUSINESS ORIENTATION (E.G. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/, FIORINO, 24 ORE, IL TEMPO, LA STAMPA, IL GIORNALE, IL GLOBO, ETC.) PAID DUE RESPECT TO THE GOOD INTENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY STATEMENT TO LIMIT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, BUT THEY DEVOTE MOST OF THEIR SPACE TO EXPRESSING FEARS THAT (A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL BE RETARDED IF THE POLICY IS IMPLEMENTED AND (B) IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THERE WILL BE A BITTER CLASH BETWEEN U.S. AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES. UGO STILLE (CORRIERE DELLA SERA) COMMENTED THAT U.S. WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN COMMITMENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE LARGE ECONOMIC INTERESTS AT STAKE. IN A LATER ARTICLE (APRIL 13) HE STATES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S "REQUEST" THAT OTHER COUNTRIES THAT POSSESS PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO NOT TRANSFER THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS CREATED A CONFLICT THAT RISKS OPENING A "SIGNIFICANT CRISIS" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS LARGEST ALLIES. HE NOTED SUSPICIONS AMONG THE ALLIES THAT THE NEW POLICY'S PRIME OBJECTIVE WAS TO GIVE U. S. CONTROL OVER THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND THUS REGAIN FOR U.S. SUPERIORITY AS THE U.S. AND U.S.S.R. "HAVE A MONOPOLY OVER ENRICHED URANIUM" AND AS U.S. INDUSTRY IS FAR BEHIND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER REACTORS. HE PREDICTED A BITTER EXCHANGE OF DEMANDS AND COUNTER-DEMANDS AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON. PRESS OFFICER OF THE ITALIAN COUNCIL FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY REFERRED IN THE SAME PAPER) TO AN INTENT TO MAINTAIN THE U.S. INDUSTRY'S "PRIVILEGED ROLE" IN RELATION TO EUROPEAN INDUSTRY.

2. OTHER NEWSPAPERS OF CENTER TO RIGHT POLITICAL ORIENTATION HAVE ARTICLES IN THE SAME VEIN AS EXAMPLES REPORTED PARA 1 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ALMOST ALL CARRIED ARTICLES CITING NEGATIVE REACTION IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND U.S. IN PARTICULAR THEY TOOK DUE NOTE OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, WITHIN 24 HOURS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT, THAT FRG HAD DECIDED TO RESPECT ITS AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL.

3. AMONG THE MOST FAVORABLE AND THOUGHTFUL ARTICLES IS ENRICO JACCHIA'S IN IL GIORNALE (APRIL 12) IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL HAVE TO EXERT INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE MOST ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY THE PRESIDENT HAS SET FOR THE U.S. HE THEN OBSERVED THAT ITALY IS FACED WITH CHOICE OF WITHER FOLLOWING U.S. LINE OR THAT OF FRANCE AND FRG WHICH HE CONSIDERED AS REMAINING IN FAVOR OF BREEDER REACTORS INCLUDING EXPORT OF REPROCESSING PLANTS. IF ITALY FOLLOWS U.S. LINE, HE ARGUED, IT SHOULD ASK FOR GUARANTEES OF FUEL SUPPLY FOR ITALY'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AT EQUITABLE PRICES, MULTINATIONAL (AS OPPOSED TO EXISTING NATIONAL) REPROCESSING PLANTS, ETC. IF IT FOLLOWS THE FRANCE-FRG LINE, ITALY SHOULD ALSO PUSH EXPORT OF NUCLEAR PLANTS, BUT IT WOULD HAVE

TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM SUCH SALES ESPECIALLY TO TROUBLED AND UNSTABLE REGIMES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN.

4. IN ANOTHER THOUGHTFUL ARTICLE GIUSEPPE D'AVANZO, IN IL TEMPO (APRIL 10), RECALLED THAT OIL CRISIS LED GOI TO DEVELOP PROGRAM TO CONSTRUCT 20 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS BETWEEN 1979 AND 1990 AND THAT IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THESE PLANTS WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND TO AN INCREASING EXTENT ON PLUTONIUM FUEL AS URANIUM SUPPLY WAS EXPECTED TO BE INADEQUATE AFTER 1980. HE STATED THAT "CARTER HAS HALTED" DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS AND PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION WHICH WILL HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT, FOR ITALY, ON URANIUM FUEL PRICE--AN IMPACT WHICH MAY APPROACH ECONOMIC CRISIS PROPORTIONS THAT AROSE FROM OIL PRICE INCREASE IN 1973. D'AVANZO, THEREFORE, CLAIMED THAT TO GIVE UP FAST BREEDER REACTORS IS TO GIVE UP THE (LONG-TERM) ITALIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE. NEVERTHELESS, HE ARGUED THAT PRESIDENT

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CARTER COULD NOT BE CRITICIZED FOR SEEKING TO AVOID THE RISKS OF A PLUTONIUM ECONOMY AND CONCLUDED THAT APPARENTLY ITALIANS SHOULD BEGIN TO THINK OF A LESS BURDENSOME BUT MORE TRANQUIL FUTURE WITH MORE MODEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. THE LEFT OF CENTER PRESS REACTION WAS MORE NEGATIVE THAN THE RIGHT MAINLY IN THE STRENGTH OF WORDS USED. LA REPUBBLICA ARTICLE STATED THAT PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENT WAS A DEFINITE ATTEMPT TO REAFFIRM AMERICAN SUPREMACY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND THAT ASIDE FROM THIS ECONOMIC ASPECT IT MADE NO SENSE EXCEPT THAT OF THE IRON FIST. PAESE SERA ARTICLE TERMED THE STATEMENT "UNEXPECTED", NOTED THAT NUCLEAR POWER IS VITAL MATTER FOR ITALY AND CONCLUDED THAT STATEMENT MAY BE INTERPRETED AS TENDING TO WIDEN GAP BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE ENERGY RESOURCES AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT. UNITA' SIMPLY NOTED CRITICISM IN U.S. AND EUROPE OF PRESIDENT'S NUCLEAR POLICY. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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